

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 12 March 2001 (12.03.01)	
International application No. PCT/CA00/00729	Applicant's or agent's file reference T8465811WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 19 June 2000 (19.06.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 18 June 1999 (18.06.99)
Applicant STRONACH, Andrew, M.	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
18 January 2001 (18.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Claudio Borton Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
--	---

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 26 September 2001 (26.09.01)	
International application No. PCT/CA00/00729	Applicant's or agent's file reference T8465811WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 19 June 2000 (19.06.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 18 June 1999 (18.06.99)
Applicant STRONACH, Andrew, M.	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
18 January 2001 (18.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Paulette BOCCARD (Fax 338.87.40) Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
---	--

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference T8465811W0	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/CA 00/ 00729	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/06/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 18/06/1999
Applicant STRONACH, Andrew, M.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of Invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

3

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CA 00/ 00729

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The abstract is modified as follows:

Line 7 - 9:

The part beginning with the words "The payout processor..." and ending in the words "...of the events." is deleted.

Line 15 - 18:

The part beginning with the words "The payout processor..." and ending in the words "...predicted outcome." is deleted.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/ 00/00729

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60 G07F17/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F G07F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	US 5 830 068 A (PERRY BRENT E ET AL) 3 November 1998 (1998-11-03) abstract column 2, line 30 -column 5, line 3 figures 1-6	1,7 2-6,8-13
X A	US 5 743 525 A (HADDAD GEORGE N) 28 April 1998 (1998-04-28) the whole document	7,8 1-6,9-13
P,X	WO 00 25876 A (RACETECH L L C) 11 May 2000 (2000-05-11) abstract	1,7



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Van Dop, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members



International Application No

PCT/CA 00/00729

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5830068	A	03-11-1998	AU 7235696 A	27-03-1997
			CA 2232308 A	13-03-1997
			EP 1004997 A	31-05-2000
			EP 1004998 A	31-05-2000
			EP 1004999 A	31-05-2000
			EP 1005000 A	31-05-2000
			EP 1005001 A	31-05-2000
			EP 0848846 A	24-06-1998
			NZ 319764 A	24-09-1998
			WO 9709699 A	13-03-1997
			US 6004211 A	21-12-1999
			US 6099409 A	08-08-2000
			US 6089981 A	18-07-2000
<hr/>				
US 5743525	A	28-04-1998	AU 717057 B	16-03-2000
			AU 2843197 A	15-01-1998
			CA 2209277 A	01-01-1998
<hr/>				
WO 0025876	A	11-05-2000	AU 1234200 A	22-05-2000
<hr/>				

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference T8465811WO		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/CA00/00729	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/06/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 18/06/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F17/60			
Applicant STRONACH, Andrew, M.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 			
Date of submission of the demand 18/01/2001		Date of completion of this report 13.09.2001	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer Jaedicke, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2357 	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA00/00729

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-16	as originally filed			
17	as received on	29/08/2001	with letter of	26/08/2001

Claims, No.:

1-13	as received on	29/08/2001	with letter of	26/08/2001
------	----------------	------------	----------------	------------

Drawings, sheets:

1/7-7/7	as originally filed
---------	---------------------

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA00/00729

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:
5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)
6. Additional observations, if necessary:

II. Priority

1. ☐ This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:
- ☐ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
- ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
2. ☐ This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid.

Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:
see separate sheet

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-13
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

- 2. Citations and explanations**
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA00/00729

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D3: US-A-5 830 068 (PERRY BRENT E ET AL) 3 November 1998 (1998-11-03)

2. At least some of the claimed subject-matters are unclear - see VIII. Hence the examination as to the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT is based on the examiner's interpretation of what is claimed, based on the application as a whole.
3. The document D3 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and discloses:

A wagering system comprising computerized user-terminals and processor instructions for implementing steps performed by the wagering system (see D3, abstract, Figure 2 and corresponding text of the description). A bettor uses the user terminal to place a bet according to the method described in D3, col. 9, line 6 to col. 13, line 14. According to D3, a user generates the wager directly by selecting the desired wager type and further needed data such as the horses. The allocation of the bet amount amongst betting pools is in D3 dictated directly by the bet type.

Hence, D3 does neither disclose deriving wagers on wagering events from activity outcome predictions nor the allocation of the bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the possible activity outcomes for the associated activity.

These differences solves the problem of how to provide an alternative wagering system. Neither this problem nor the differing features of the solution are technical.

The solution is based on the following considerations (as apparent from the description): it was necessary to recognize that to enhance the likelihood of a

successful wager, and thereby enhance the likelihood that a player would use the wagering system to place a wager, the wagering data should not be generated from the player directly. Instead, it was recognized that the wager could be derived from activity outcome predictions received from the wagerers, each activity outcome prediction defining a predicted outcome for a wagering activity having a plurality of possible activity outcomes. Further it was necessary to recognize that the bet amount could be allocated amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the possible activity outcomes for the associated activity.

Evidently, these considerations are not technical, because they relate only to the wagering method (which can be seen as a method of doing business and/or playing a game) and do not relate to the implementation of the wagering method using a computerized system. Neither considerations relating to the implementation of specific steps on a computer nor considerations relating to the performance of the execution of these steps nor considerations relating to the storage of data in a computer-readable format are identifiable.

Hence, claim 1 does not comprise a non-obvious technical contribution to the art of computerized wagering systems. Claim 1 does therefore not meet the requirements of Articles 33(1) and (3) PCT in respect of inventive step.

As a general remark, an innovative, but non-technical contribution (such as an innovative method of doing business or playing games) is not inventive in the sense of Articles 33(1) and (3) PCT, because it lacks a technical contribution.

4. Some features of the independent method claim 7 correspond to the features of the system of claim 1. Additional features of claim 7 like the specified correlation tables constitute also not a non-obvious technical contribution, but merely an obvious implementation (tables comprising records) of data and of the required data processing which is obvious from the wagering method.

In combination with the arguments already presented above (see point V.3), claim 7 specifies an obvious implementation of an innovative wagering method on a computerized terminal.

Hence, claim 7 does not meet the requirements of Articles 33(1) and (3) PCT in regard of inventive step.

5. Dependent claims 2-6 and 8-13 are not inventive, because the subject matter added by these claims does not contain a non-obvious technical contribution over the prior art and is thus not inventive in the sense of Articles 33(1) and (3) PCT. The reason is that the added subject matter is either not technical and/or does not comprise technical considerations or consists merely of commonplace technical features that are within the background knowledge of a skilled person.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

1. The plurality of independent claims 1 and 7 specifying partly overlapping features, sometimes using different definitions or terminology for what appear to be intended to be the same features, makes it unclear what the applicant considers to be the features which are necessary to define the invention for which protection is sought. In particular, the independent claims in different categories do claim only corresponding features in corresponding terms. For example, independent method claim 7 refers to an indicia correlation table, which is not mentioned in independent system claim 1.
Hence, the independent claims as a whole are unclear (Article 6 PCT).
2. The term processor used in claim 1 is unclear (Article 6 PCT). This can be either a computer or more generally a non-computerized apparatus. According to the description (see page 7, lines 27-30) this can be clearly interpreted as a memory object comprising processor instructions for a central processing unit of a computer.

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

424, until all the race events upon which the wagerer has wagered have taken place. If the payout processor 232 determines, at step 428, that all of the race events have taken place, the process returns to step 400 for the entry of another wager.

On the other hand, if the outcome correlator 252 determines, at step 426, that
5 at least one of the wagerer's wagers was successful, at step 430 the payout allocator 254 allocates a credit amount from the associated betting pool to the account buffer 226 in accordance with the size of the associated betting pool and the number of wagers placed on the betting pool. The payout processor 232 updates the account information stored on the electronic or magnetic-stripe card (if present), and then
10 determines at step 432 whether all of the race events have taken place. If not, the process returns to step 424 and waits for receipt of the next event data. On the other hand, if the payout processor 232 determines that all the race events have taken place, the wagerer can then obtain a payout of the winnings at step 434 by removing the electronic or magnetic-stripe card from the card read/write device 210. Alternately, if
15 no electronic or magnetic-stripe card is used, the wagerer can initiate a payout by sending a suitable command to the payout processor 232 via the touch sensitive membrane of the display 202, thereby causing a cash payout via the currency dispensing device 208. In the variation where the wagering system 200 is in communication with banking computers, the wagerer may also initiate payout to the
20 wagerer's bank account, after the wagerer provides the payout processor 232 with the appropriate PIN and bank account number, entered via the user interface 204.

The present invention is defined by the claims appended hereto, with the foregoing description being illustrative of the preferred embodiment of the invention. Those of ordinary skill may envisage certain additions, deletions and/or modifications
25 to the described embodiment, which although not explicitly described herein, do not depart from the scope of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

I CLAIM:

1. A wagering system comprising:

a wagering processor for deriving wagers on wagering events from activity outcome predictions received from wagerers, each activity outcome prediction defining a predicted outcome for a wagering activity having a plurality of possible activity outcomes, each said wager including a bet amount and at least one predicted event outcome of one of the wagering events;

a bet allocator in communication with the wagering processor for allocating each said bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the possible activity outcomes for the associated activity; and

a payout processor in communication with the wagering processor for facilitating payouts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and actual outcomes of the events.

2. The wagering system according to claim 1, wherein each said wagering activity has indicia and rules for performance thereof, and the wagering processor comprises an indicia correlation table associating the indicia with participants of the events in accordance with the rules, a wagering interface for receiving indicia selections from the wagerers, and an indicia processor in communication with the wagering interface and the indicia correlation table for deriving the predicted event outcomes from the indicia selections.

3. The wagering system according to claim 2, wherein each said wagering event has a plurality of possible event outcomes, and the indicia processor comprises an event outcome predictor for determining an event outcome probability associated with each said possible event outcome, an activity outcome predictor for determining an activity outcome probability associated with each said possible activity outcome, and a probability correlator in communication with the event outcome predictor and the activity outcome predictor for deriving the predicted event outcomes from the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

4. The wagering system according to claim 2, wherein the wagering interface is configured for providing the wagerers with a template for facilitating performance of one of

the activities in accordance with the associated rules, and for receiving the indicia selection via the template.

5. The wagering system according to claim 3, wherein the bet allocator comprises an activity correlation table associating each said betting pool with at least one of the activity outcomes, and an allocation processor in communication with the activity correlation table for allocating each said bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the associated activity outcome probabilities.

6. The wagering system according to claim 3, wherein the payout processor comprises an event outcome receiver for receiving indications of the actual outcomes, an outcome correlator in communication with the event outcome receiver for identifying the winning wagerers from the received indications and the predicted outcomes, and a payout allocator in communication with the outcome correlator for allocating the credit amounts amongst the respective winning wagerers in accordance with each said respective predicted event outcome.

7. A method for operating a computerized wagering terminal comprising the steps of:
providing an indicia correlation table including first records associating activity indicia with participants of wagering events, each said activity indicia being associated with a wagering activity having a plurality of possible activity outcomes;

providing an activity correlation table including second records associating parimutuel betting pools with the possible activity outcomes;

deriving wagers on wagering events by correlating the first records of the indicia correlation table with indicia selections received from wagerers, each said wager including a bet amount and at least one predicted event outcome of one of the wagering events;

allocating each said bet amount amongst at least one of the betting pools by correlating the second records of the activity correlation table with the possible activity outcomes for the associated activity; and

paying out credit amounts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers by correlating the predicted event outcomes and actual event outcomes.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of deriving wagers comprises the steps of associating rules with at least one of the activities, associating the activity indicia with participants of the wagering events in accordance with the set of rules, and for each said wager deriving the predicted event outcome from the indicia selection.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein each said wagering event has a plurality of possible event outcomes, and the step of associating the activity indicia comprises the steps of determining an event outcome probability associated with each said possible event outcome and determining an activity outcome probability associated with each said possible activity outcome, and associating the activity indicia with the participants in accordance with the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of deriving wagers comprises the steps of providing a template for facilitating performance of one of the activities in accordance with the associated rules, and receiving the indicia selection via the template.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of allocating bet amounts comprises allocating each said bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the associated activity outcome probabilities.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of allocating bet amounts comprises allocating each said bet amount equally amongst the betting pools.

13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the payout step comprises the steps of receiving indications of the actual outcomes, correlating the received indications with the predicted event outcomes to identify the winning wagerers, associating each said winning wagerer with at least one of the betting pools in accordance with each said respective predicted outcome, and for each said betting pool allocating the credit amounts amongst the respective associated winning wagerers.

WAGERING SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a parimutuel betting system. In particular, the present invention relates to a betting and gaming system and method which simplifies the placement of parimutuel wagers on race events.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Wagering on racing events, such as horse races and dog races, typically takes the form of either fixed odds wagering or parimutuel wagering. Fixed odds wagering is a system by which the return for a particular wager is determined in accordance with the payout odds assigned to the associated bet. Fixed odds wagering is popular from the perspective of wager recipients (eg. betting parlours) since it places a limit on the magnitude of the payout in the event of a win. Fixed odds wagering is also
15 popular from the perspective of wagerers since it provides a measure of certainty on the possible payout. However, as the odds assigned to a particular bet can diminish as the total amount wagered increases, fixed odds wagering is not be particularly attractive to some wagerers since the payout odds for their bet may diminish in the minutes before the start of the sporting event.

20 Parimutuel wagering is a system by which a wagering pool is established for the receipt of bets, and the proceeds of the pool are divided amongst holders of winning tickets in accordance with the number of winning ticket holders and the magnitude of each wager. Parimutuel wagering is popular from the perspective of the wager recipients (eg. race track owners), since the recipient typically receives a fixed
25 percentage of each amount bet prior to the payout to the winning ticket holders. Also, parimutuel wagering is popular from the perspective of the wagerer since the return on a particular bet is proportional to the size of the wagering pool and, therefore, can exceed the fixed odds return of the bet. However, parimutuel wagering also suffers from a number of disadvantages.

30 Firstly, parimutuel wagering requires a knowledge of betting terminology (eg. win, place, show, triactor, exactor). Secondly, parimutuel wagering requires the wagerer to be conversant with betting forms, and to have knowledge of race

-2-

contestant handicapping. Since these factors act as an impediment to the placement of bets, and therefore limit the revenue experienced by wager recipients, attempts have been made to improve on the conventional parimutuel wagering systems to encourage wagerers to place wagers on race events.

5 For instance, Goldberg (US 5,374,060) teaches a method of wagering which expands upon the number of wagering opportunities available for racetrack betting. The method taught by Goldberg involves providing wagerers with wagering cards configured with small circles corresponding to the desired contestant for each of a plurality of races. Each wagering card allows "win"-type wagering, "place"-type
10 wagering, "show"-type wagering, or "win, place, show"-type wagering. Each wagerer selects desired contestants for each race and tenders the completed card to a bet collector. The wagerer also tenders a bet which is included in the purse associated with the wager type. The purse available for payment for each wager type is then divided equally amongst winning card holders. Typically, payoffs are paid to
15 wagerers who select all or a portion of the correct winning contestants for their wager type.

 Haddad (US 5,743,525) teaches a sporting event parimutuel wagering system which facilitates wagering without requiring significant wagering knowledge by the wagerer. The wagering system taught by Haddad involves first assigning race
20 participants a unique number. Then, wagerers place wagers on the race participants by selecting one or more of the numbers and paying a bet amount. At the end of the race event, the numbers associated with the first three horses are added together, and the total is then compared with the sum of the numbers selected by each wagerer. Wagerers whose sums match the calculated total share in the proceeds of the pool
25 associated with the race event.

[Weingardt (US 5,275,400) teaches an electronic gaming system which provides an electronic video poker game, an electronic slot game, an electronic blackjack game or an electronic craps game. The gaming system accepts one of a plurality of different bet amounts, and establishes a separate parimutuel wagering pool
30 associated with each allowed bet amount, with the allocation of each bet to the wagering pools being determined in accordance with a formula based on the amount bet. The gaming system provides a payout to a winning player from the wagering

-3-

pool corresponding to the amount bet, and to encourage the placement of larger-sized bets the payout amounts increase with the amount bet.]

Although the race event parimutuel betting systems taught by Goldberg and Haddad offer improvements over the conventional race event parimutuel betting systems, they are limited in their ability to enhance revenue for wager recipients. For instance, wagerers of Goldberg's wagering system must still have knowledge of betting terminology. Neither Goldberg nor Haddad increase the available wagering opportunities significantly beyond those available with conventional race event parimutuel betting systems. Also, the betting interfaces suggested by Goldberg and Haddad do little to attract and maintain the attention of novice wagerers. [Although Weingardt offers improvements over the betting systems taught by Goldberg and Haddad, Weingardt only allows wagering on the particular game implemented by the electronic gaming system and, therefore would not be suitable for encouraging wagering on race events.] Therefore, there remains a need for a parimutuel betting and gaming system which encourages wagering on race events.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention, there is provided a wagering system and a method for facilitating wagering on race events, which addresses deficiencies of the prior art.

The wagering system, according to the present invention, includes a wagering processor, a bet allocator in communication with the wagering processor, and a payout processor in communication with the wagering processor. The wagering processor is configured to process wagers received from wagerers on wagering events, with each wager including a predicted outcome of at least one of the events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome. The bet allocator is configured to allocate each bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the associated predicted outcome. The payout processor is configured to facilitate payouts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and actual outcomes of the events.

The method for facilitating wagering includes the steps of (1) receiving wagers from wagerers on wagering events, each said wager including a predicted outcome of at least one of the events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome; (2)

allocating each said bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the associated predicted outcome; and (3) paying out credit amounts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and actual outcomes of the events.

5 In accordance with a preferred implementation of the invention, the wagering processor includes an indicia correlation table associating indicia with participants of racing events. Preferably, each indicia is associated with a game activity having rules for the performance thereof, which rules are previously well known to the wagerer. Preferred rules include rules for playing BINGO, BLACKJACK and CRAPS. The
10 wagering processor also includes a wagering interface for providing the wagerers with a template for facilitating performance of one of the activities in accordance with the associated rules and for receiving an indicia selection via the template, and an indicia processor in communication with the wagering interface and the indicia correlation table for deriving the predicted outcomes from the indicia selections in accordance
15 with the rules.

Typically, each wagering event has a plurality of possible event outcomes, and each activity has a plurality of possible activity outcomes. Preferably, the indicia processor includes an event outcome predictor for determining the event outcome probability associated with each possible event outcome, an activity outcome
20 predictor for determining the activity outcome probability associated with each possible activity outcome, and a probability correlator in communication with the event outcome predictor and the activity outcome predictor for deriving the predicted outcomes of the events from the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

25 The bet allocator includes an activity correlation table associating each said betting pool with one of the activity outcomes, and an allocation processor in communication with the activity correlation table for allocating each bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the associated activity outcome probabilities. The payout processor includes an event outcome receiver for receiving
30 indications of the actual outcomes, an outcome correlator in communication with the event outcome receiver for identifying the winning wagerers from the received indications and the predicted outcomes, and a payout allocator in communication with

the outcome correlator for allocating the credit amounts amongst the respective winning wagerers in accordance with each respective predicted outcome.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 The preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the drawings, in which:

 Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of the wagering network, according to the present invention, depicting the wagering facilities, the wagering systems, and the communications network;

10 Fig. 2 is a schematic view of the wagering system shown in Fig. 1, depicting the multimedia display, the user interface, the currency receiver, the currency dispensing device, and the card read/write device;

 Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of further details of the wagering system shown in Fig. 2, depicting the wagering processor, the bet allocator, and the payout
15 processor;

 Fig. 4 is a schematic view of a sample BINGO game activity card implemented by the wagering system for placing wagers; and

 Figs. 5a, 5b, and 5c comprise a flow chart describing the wagering steps facilitated by the wagering system.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

 Turning to Fig. 1, a wagering network, denoted generally as 100, is shown comprising a plurality of wagering facilities 102, a plurality of wagering systems 200, and a communications network 104 for facilitating communication between the
25 wagering facilities 102 and the wagering systems 200. Preferably, the communications network 104 comprises a closed network, however the communications network 104 may instead comprise an open network, such as the Internet, if the open network has sufficient bandwidth for adequately servicing the wagering systems 200. Further, typically the communications network 104 is a land-
30 based network, however the communications network 104 may instead comprise a wireless communications network.

Typically, each wagering facility 102 is associated with one or more race tracks, and provides the wagering systems 200 with racing information, such as the names and post positions of the race candidates (eg. horse, dog) running in each race event at each associated race track. The wagering facilities 102 also provide the
5 wagering systems 200 with odds information for each race candidate, and betting pool information on the size of each betting pool.

As shown in Fig. 2, the wagering system 200 comprises a display 202 for displaying information concerning an activity, a user interface 204 for placing wagers on the activity in accordance with an associated set of rules, a currency receiver 206
10 for receiving paper currency, a currency dispensing device 208 for dispensing cash winnings, a card read/write device 210 for receiving an electronic or magnetic-stripe card for retaining account information, and a housing 212 for retaining the display 202, the user interface 204, the currency receiver 206, the currency dispensing device 208, and the card read/write device 210. Preferably, the activities displayed by the
15 display 202 are game activities the rules for which are commonly known, such as BLACKJACK, CRAPS, ROULETTE, POKER and BINGO. Other activities will be apparent to those of ordinary skill.

Typically, the electronic or magnetic-stripe card is issued by a betting parlour in which the wagering system 200 is located, and is encoded with information
20 identifying the wagerer's account balance. As will become apparent, the currency receiver 206 and the card read/write device 210 provide alternate mechanisms for crediting the wagerer's account, and the currency dispensing device 208 and the card read/write device 210 provide alternate mechanisms for facilitating a payout for a winning wager.

25 Preferably, the display 202 includes a CRT display 202a for displaying a video image of the game activity, and a speaker 202b for playing an audio accompaniment to the video image. The user interface 204 is provided to allow wagerers to enter wagers on the game activity and to initiate a cash payout of the wagerer's winnings. Preferably, the user interface 204 is implemented as a keyboard separate from the
30 CRT display 202a, however the user interface 204 may also be implemented as a touch sensitive membrane provided on the surface of the CRT display 200a if desired. The wagering system 200 also includes a data processor 214 (discussed below) in

communication with the display 202, the user interface 204, the currency receiver 206, the currency dispensing device 208, and the card read/write device 210 for facilitating wagering on the game activity.

It should be understood that the configuration shown in Fig. 2 is only one
5 implementation of the wagering system 200, and that other configurations are also envisaged. For instance, in one variation, not shown, the wagering system 200 excludes the currency receiver 206 and the currency dispensing device 208, and maintains the card read/write device 210 as the sole means for receiving wagers and for providing payouts. In another variation, not shown, the card read/write device 210
10 is configured to receive wagers on game cards. In this variation, the wagerer may be provided with a game card, such as a bingo card, which has a Universal bar code and indicia preassigned on the card, and the card read/write device 210 is configured to obtain the wagerer's wager by reading the Universal bar code. Alternately, the wagerer may be provided with a blank game card which allows the wagerer to enter
15 the desired indicia on the card, such as with pencil, and the card read/write device 210 is configured to read and identify the pencilled indicia. Other configurations of the wagering system 200 will be apparent to those of ordinary skill.

As shown in Fig. 3, the data processor 214 comprises a network interface 216 for communicating with the wagering facilities 102 over the communications network
20 104, and a central processing unit (CPU) 218 in communication with the display 202, the user interface 204, the currency receiver 206, the currency dispensing device 208, the card read/write device 210, and the network interface 216. The data processor 214 also includes a non-volatile memory (NVM) 220 and a volatile memory (RAM) 222 in communication with the CPU 218.

25 The NVM 220 includes an odds buffer 224 for receiving odds data from the wagering facilities 102, and an account buffer 226 for recording the monetary value of funds in the wagerer's's wagering account. The NVM 220 also includes processor instructions for the CPU 218 which establish in the RAM 222 a memory object defining a wagering processor 228, a memory object defining a bet allocator 230, and
30 a memory object defining a payout processor 232.

The wagering processor 228 is configured to process wagers received from wagerers on the racing events, with each wager including a predicted outcome of at

least one of the racing events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome. However, the wagering processor 228 does not directly receive wagers on the race events, but instead receives wagers or outcome predictions on the outcome of the activity displayed on the display 202 and converts the outcome predictions to wagers on race candidates of the race events. To effect the conversion between activity outcome predictions and race candidate wagers, the wagering processor 228 includes an indicia correlation table 234 which includes records associating activity indicia with each race candidate of the race events.

The wagering processor 228 also includes a wagering interface 236 for receiving indicia selections from wagerers using the wagering system 200, and an indicia processor 238 in communication with the wagering interface 236 and the indicia correlation table 234 for deriving wagers on the race events from the indicia selections in accordance with the associated activity rules. The indicia processor 238 includes an event outcome predictor 240 for determining the probability of occurrence of each race event outcome, an activity outcome predictor 242 in communication with the indicia correlation table 234 for determining and providing the indicia correlation table 234 with probability data of the occurrence of each activity outcome, and a probability correlator 244 in communication with the event outcome predictor 240 and the activity outcome predictor 242 for deriving wagers (ie. predicted outcomes) on the race events from the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

The indicia correlation table 234 includes records associating activity indicia with each race candidate of the race events. Preferably, the indicia listed in the indicia correlation table 234 are associated with the race candidates in accordance with their respective probability of occurrence. Specifically, since the odds information associated with each race candidate will often suggest that at least one of the race candidates will be more likely to win than other race candidates, and since at least one of the activity outcomes will be more likely to occur than other activity outcomes, preferably each race candidate listed in the indicia correlation table 234 is associated with one or more indicia in accordance with the odds associated with each respective race candidate and the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome.

As an example, if the wagering system 200 is configured to play CRAPS, then there are only 11 possible activity outcomes which can be displayed at the wagering interface 236, each having the following outcome probabilities:

5	<u>Activity Outcome</u>	<u>Indicia Required</u>	<u>Probability of Occurrence</u>
	2	1,1	1/36
	3	1,2; 2,1	2/36
	4	1,3; 2,2; 3,1	3/36
	5	1,4; 2,3; 3,2; 4,1	4/36
10	6	1,5; 2,4; 3,3; 4,2; 5,1	5/36
	7	1,6; 2,5; 3,4; 4,3; 5,2; 6,1	6/36
	8	2,6; 3,5; 4,4; 5,3; 6,2	5/36
	9	3,6; 4,5; 5,4; 6,3	4/36
	10	4,6; 5,5; 6,4	3/36
15	11	5,6; 6,5	2/36
	12	6,6	1/36

Accordingly, in one implementation of the invention, the wagering interface 236 is configured to depict a CRAPS table template on the CRT display 202a and the user interface user interface 204 is configured for receiving CRAPS wagers. Each race event has only six race candidates, and the race candidate having the highest probability of winning is associated in the indicia correlation table 234 with indicia {1,6; 2,5; 3,4; 4,3; 5,2; 6,1} (activity outcome 7), the race candidate having the next highest probability of winning is associated in the indicia correlation table 234 with indicia {1,5; 2,4; 2,6; 3,3; 3,5; 4,2; 4,4; 5,1; 5,3; 6,2} (activity outcomes 6, 8) and so on, with the race candidate having the lowest probability of winning being associated in the indicia correlation table 234 with indicia {1,1; 6,6} (activity outcomes 2, 12). Alternately, since there are 36 possible activity outcomes from a die pair throw, in a race event having only nine race candidates, in another implementation of the invention each race candidate listed in the indicia correlation table 234 is associated with 4 different indicia without regard to the associated probabilities of occurrence.

In another implementation of the invention, the wagering interface 236 is configured to depict a BINGO game card template on the CRT display 202a using, for example, the game activity card 300 shown in Fig. 4. As shown therein, the game activity card 300 includes a plurality of game columns 302, and a plurality of game rows 304 intersecting with the game columns 302 to define a plurality of cells, each including a game indicia 306. In accordance with this latter implementation, each race candidate listed in the indicia correlation table 234 is uniquely associated with one of the game indicia 306 denoted on the game activity card 300, without regard to the associated probabilities of occurrence.

With the indicia association scheme provided by the BINGO activity game card 300, selection of the indicia in any particular column can correspond to the wagerer predicting the first, second, third and fourth race candidates (ie a SUPERFECTA wager) in a given race event. Further, depending upon whether the associated betting pools are allowed for the race event, selection of the indicia in any particular column can also (or instead) correspond to the wagerer predicting the first race candidate (ie a TO WIN wager); and/or the first and second race candidates (ie. an EXACTOR wager); and/or the first, second and third race candidates (ie. a TRIACTOR wager). Also, selection of the indicia in any particular column can also (or instead) correspond to the wagerer selecting a race candidate to finish first or second (ie. a PLACE wager); or the wagerer selecting a race candidate to finish first, second or third (ie. a SHOW wager). Selection of the indicia in any particular row can correspond, for example, to the wagerer predicting the winner in 6 race events (ie. a PICK 6 wager); or the wagerer predicting the winner in 5 race events (ie. a PICK 5 wager). Selection of all the indicia can correspond to the winner placing a SUPERFECTA wager (ie. a PICK ALL wager) in all the race events. Other indicia association schemes will be apparent, and are encompassed by the present invention.

Preferably, the bet allocator 230 is configured to allocate each amount bet amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the probability of occurrence of each outcome prediction provided by the wagering processor 228. For instance, if the wagering system 200 is configured to play BINGO using, for example, the game activity card 300 shown in Fig. 4, with each race candidate listed in the indicia correlation table 234 being uniquely associated with one

-11-

of the game indicia 306 marked on the game activity card 300, then each set of column or row of game indicia 306 can be associated with one or more race candidate wager types (eg. WIN, PLACE, SHOW, EXACTOR, TRIACTOR, SUPERFECTA). Since a SHOW wager has the highest probability of success (followed in decreasing probability of success by a PLACE wager, a WIN wager, an EXACTOR wager, a TRIACTOR wager, a SUPERFECTA wager, a PICK 5 wager, a PICK 6 wager, and a PICK ALL wager), the bet allocator 230 would allocate, for example, 20% of the amount bet to a SHOW betting pool, 20% to a PLACE betting pool, 15% to a WIN betting pool, 10% to an EXACTOR betting pool, 9% to a TRIACTOR betting pool, 8% to a SUPERFECTA betting pool, 7% to a PICK 5 betting pool, 6% to a PICK 6 betting pool, and 5% to a PICK ALL betting pool. As will be appreciated from the foregoing example, the allocation of the bet amount amongst the betting pools need not coincide exactly with the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome.

On the other hand, since CRAPS has only 6 different probability levels, the bet allocator 230 would only allocate the bet amount amongst 6 different betting pools, for example the WIN, PLACE, SHOW, EXACTOR, TRIACTOR, and SUPERFECTA betting pools. As will be apparent, the allocation of the bet amount amongst these 6 betting pools would result in a different distribution than that described above for BINGO.

To allocate each amount bet, as described above, the bet allocator 230 includes an activity correlation table 246 which includes records associating the betting pools with the possible activity outcomes of the activity implemented by the wagering interface 236. The records of the activity correlation table 246 also specify the probability of occurrence (ie. the probability of a wagerer receiving a payout from the respective betting pool) associated with each betting pool. The bet allocator 230 also includes an allocation processor 248 in communication with the activity correlation table 246 for determining and providing the activity correlation table 246 with the probability data for each betting pool, and for allocating each amount bet amongst the betting pools in accordance with the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome.

The activity correlation table 246 includes records associating the betting pools with outcomes of the activity. Preferably, the betting pools listed in the activity

-12-

correlation table 246 are associated with the activity outcomes in accordance with the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome. For instance, in one implementation of the invention, the wagering interface 236 is configured to depict a CRAPS table template on the CRT display 202a, and the wagering facilities 102 establish 6 parimutuel betting pools for each wagering system 200 configured for playing CRAPS, with activity outcome 7 being associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the first betting pool, activity outcomes 6, 8 being associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the second betting pool, and so on, with activity outcomes 2, 12 being associated in the activity correlation table 226 with the sixth betting pool.

Alternately, since there are 11 unique activity outcomes in CRAPS {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12}, in another implementation of the invention the wagering facilities 102 establish 11 parimutuel betting pools for each wagering system 200 configured for playing CRAPS, with each betting pool being associated in the activity correlation table 246 with a respective one of the activity outcomes without regard to the associated probabilities of occurrence. In this variation, preferably the bet allocator 230 allocates the bet amount equally amongst all 11 betting pools.

In yet another implementation, the wagering interface 236 is configured to depict a BINGO game card template on the CRT display 202a using, for example, the game activity card 300 shown in Fig. 4. In accordance with this latter implementation, the wagering facilities 102 establish a first set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of a respective column 302 on the game activity card 300, another set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of a respective row 304 on the game activity card 300, and another parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with completion of the entire game activity card 300.

In this implementation, the completion of a single column 302 of the game activity card 300 equates to correctly predicting the first, second, third and fourth race candidate in any race event (ie. a SUPERFECTA wager), the completion of a single row 304 of the game activity card 300 equates to correctly predicting the first (second, third or fourth) race candidate in all the race events, and the completion of the entire

-13-

game activity card 300 equates to correctly predicting the first, second, third and fourth race candidate in all the race events (ie. a PICK ALL wager). Due to the relatively low probability of a novice wagerer correctly completing any single column 302 or row 304 of the game activity card 300, the wagering facilities 102 also

5 establish a set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of the first two cells of game indicia 306 of a respective column 302 on the game activity card 300 (ie. an EXACTOR wager), and a set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of the first three cells of game indicia 306 of a respective column 302 on

10 the game activity card 300 (ie. a TRIACTOR wager). Also, the wagering facilities 102 also establish a parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of five of the cells in the first row of the game indicia 306 (ie. a PICK 5 wager), and a parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of five of the cells in the first row of the

15 game indicia 306 (ie. a PICK 6 wager).

In still another implementation, the wagering system 200 is again configured for playing BINGO using, for example, the game activity card 300 shown in Fig. 4. In accordance with this latter implementation, the wagering facilities 102 establish a first parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the

20 correct identification of all 24 indicia, a second parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the correct identification of between 20 and 23 indicia, a third parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the correct identification of between 16 and 19 indicia, a fourth parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 226 with the correct

25 identification of between 12 and 15 indicia, and a fifth parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the correct identification of between 8 and 11 indicia. To account for the possibility that the requirement for payout of any particular betting pool is not satisfied, the wagering facilities 102 also establish a sixth parimutuel betting pool which is associated in the activity correlation

30 table 246 with the greatest number of correctly identified indicia. Preferably, the sixth parimutuel betting pool receives the betting amounts allocated to the betting pool for

which the payout requirements were not met. Other betting pool association schemes will be apparent, and are encompassed by the present invention.

The payout processor 232 is configured to facilitate payouts from the betting pools to the winning wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and the actual outcomes of the events. To effect this result, the payout processor 232 comprises an event outcome receiver 250 for receiving data on the actual event outcomes, an outcome correlator 252 in communication with the event outcome receiver 250 for identifying the winning wagerers from the received outcome data and the predicted outcomes, and a payout allocator 254 in communication with the outcome correlator 252 for allocating credit amounts (ie a portion of the bet amounts deposited in a particular betting pool) from each betting pool amongst the winning wagerers who had a portion of their bet amounts deposited in the particular betting pool. The payout allocator 254 is in communication with the currency receiver 206, the currency dispensing device 208, the card read/write device 210, and the account buffer 226, and is configured for crediting the wagerer's wagering account with money received by the currency receiver 206. The payout allocator 254 is also configured to credit the account of the wager using the wagering system 200 with any credits stored on the electronic/magnetic-stripe card which is inserted in the card read/write device 210, and to update the wagerer's wagering account in accordance with the amount wagered and the outcome of the wager.

A preferred embodiment of the process implemented by the wagering network 100, and the wagering system 200 in particular, will now be described with reference to Fig. 5. At step 400, the wagering facilities 102 transmit racing information, such as the names and post positions of the race candidates in each race event, start time information for each race event, and odds information for each race candidate. Each wagering system 200 receives the information over the communications network 104 and, at step 402, displays a game activity template on the display 202 together with the time remaining until the start of the next race event. The term "wagering period" will be used hereafter to denote the period immediately preceding the start of a race event during which wagers may be received. Each wagering system 200 stores the received odds information in the odds buffer 224.

At step 404, the payout processor 232 determines whether the wagerer has deposited money into the currency receiver 206, or has inserted an electronic/magnetic-stripe wagerer's card into the card read/write device 210, thereby establishing a wagering account in the account buffer 226. In one variation, the
5 wagering system 200 is in communication with banking computers and the payout processor 232 establishes a wagering account by electronically transferring funds from the wagerer's bank account, after the wagerer provides the payout processor 232 with the appropriate PIN and bank account number, via the user interface 204.

If no wagering account has been established, the wagering system 200
10 continues to display the game activity template and the time remaining at step 402. On the other hand, if a wagering account has been established, at step 406 the payout processor 232 determines whether the wagering period has expired. If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has expired, the wagering system 200 continues to display the game activity template and the time remaining until start
15 of the next wagering period at step 402.

If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has not expired, at step 408 the payout processor 232 waits for a bet amount and an indicia selection to be entered via the user interface 204 and the wagering interface 236. As will be appreciated, the wagering interface 236 ensures that the indicia selected by the
20 wagerer comply with the rules associated for performing the game activity displayed by the wagering system 200. Once a bet amount is selected, at step 410 the payout processor 232 again determines whether the wagering period has expired. If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has expired, the wagering system 200 continues to display the game activity template and the time remaining
25 until start of the next wagering period at step 402. On the other hand, if the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has not expired, at step 412 the payout processor 232 queries the account buffer 226 to determine whether the wagerer has sufficient funds in its wagering account for the amount bet. If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering account does not have sufficient funds for
30 the amount bet, the payout processor 232 displays a message on the display 202, requesting that the wagerer insert more funds or place a smaller bet. The payout processor 232 then waits for a new wager at step 408.

-16-

If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering account does have sufficient funds for the bet, the indicia processor 238 of the wagering processor 228 queries the indicia correlation table 234 with the indicia selection received by the wagering interface 236 to determine at least one predicted outcome for the race events. To do so, the activity outcome predictor 242 of the indicia processor 238 first calculates and stores probability data of the occurrence of each activity outcome in the indicia correlation table 234. Then, at step 414, the event outcome predictor 240 queries the odds buffer 224 to determine the probability of occurrence of each possible race event outcome. The probability correlator 244 then derives the predicted outcomes, at step 416, from the activity outcome probability data stored in the indicia correlation table 234 (via the activity outcome predictor 242) and the event outcome probabilities provided by the event outcome predictor 240. The wagering processor 228 then transmits the predicted outcomes to the bet allocator 230.

Once the predicted outcomes are determined, the bet allocator 230 allocates the amount bet amongst the parimutuel betting pools applicable to the indicia selection. To do so, the allocation processor 248 of the bet allocator 230 queries the activity correlation table 246 with the outcome predictions, at step 418, to determine the betting pools associated with the outcome predictions. The allocation processor 248 then obtains the probability data associated with each of the associated betting pools, at step 420, and apportions the bet amount (received from the wagering interface 236) in accordance with probability data. At step 422, the bet allocator 230 transmits the bet amounts, as apportioned in step 420, to the wagering facilities 102 for inclusion into the respective betting pools. After the wagering period expires, the wagering facilities 102 provide the wagering systems 200 with updated information on the size of each betting pool, and the number of wagers who placed on each betting pool.

After one of the race events is complete, at step 424 the wagering facilities 102 transmit to the payout processor 232 event data indicative of the actual outcome of the race event. Upon receipt of the event data by the event outcome receiver 250, at step 426 the outcome correlator 252 determines from the event data and the predicted outcomes (provided by the wagering processor 228) whether any of the wagerer's wagers were successful. If not, the payout processor 232 continues to wait, at step

-17-

424, until all the race events upon which the wagerer has wagered have taken place. If the payout processor 232 determines, at step 428, that all of the race events have taken place, the process returns to step 400 for the entry of another wager.

On the other hand, if the outcome correlator 252 determines, at step 426, that
5 at least one of the wagerer's wagers was successful, at step 430 the payout allocator 254 allocates a credit amount from the associated betting pool to the account buffer 226 in accordance with the size of the associated betting pool and the number of wagers placed on the betting pool. The payout processor 232 updates the account information stored on the electronic or magnetic-stripe card (if present), and then
10 determines at step 432 whether all of the race events have taken place. If not, the process returns to step 424 and waits for receipt of the next event data. On the other hand, if the payout processor 232 determines that all the race events have taken place, the wagerer can then obtain a payout of the winnings at step 434 by removing the electronic or magnetic-stripe card from the card read/write device 210. Alternately, if
15 no electronic or magnetic-stripe card is used, the wagerer can initiate a payout by sending a suitable command to the payout processor 232 via the touch sensitive membrane of the display 202, thereby causing a cash payout via the currency dispensing device 208. In the variation where the wagering system 200 is in communication with banking computers, the wagerer may also initiate payout to the
20 wagerer's bank account, after the wagerer provides the payout processor 232 with the appropriate PIN and bank account number, entered via the user interface 204.

The present invention is defined by the claims appended hereto, with the foregoing description being illustrative of the preferred embodiment of the invention. Those of ordinary skill may envisage certain additions, deletions and/or modifications
25 to the described embodiment, which although not explicitly described herein, do not depart from the spirit or scope of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

I CLAIM:

1. A wagering system comprising:
 - a wagering processor for processing wagers received from wagerers on wagering events, each said wager including a predicted outcome of at least one of the events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome;
 - a bet allocator in communication with the wagering processor for allocating each said bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the associated predicted outcome; and
 - a payout processor in communication with the wagering processor for facilitating payouts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and actual outcomes of the events.
2. The wagering system according to claim 1, wherein the wagering processor comprises an indicia correlation table associating indicia with participants of the events, each said indicia being associated with an activity having rules for performance thereof, a wagering interface for receiving indicia selections from the wagerers, and an indicia processor in communication with the wagering interface and the indicia correlation table for deriving the predicted outcomes from the indicia selections in accordance with the rules.
3. The wagering system according to claim 2, wherein each said wagering event has a plurality of possible event outcomes and each said activity has a plurality of possible activity outcomes, and the indicia processor comprises an event outcome predictor for determining an event outcome probability associated with each said possible event outcome, an activity outcome predictor for and determining an activity outcome probability associated with each said possible activity outcome, and a probability correlator in communication with the event outcome predictor and the activity outcome predictor for deriving the predicted outcomes from the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.
4. The wagering system according to claim 2, wherein the wagering interface is configured for providing the wagerers with a template for facilitating performance of one of the activities in accordance with the associated rules, and for receiving the indicia selection via the template.
5. The wagering system according to claim 3, wherein the bet allocator comprises an activity correlation table associating each said betting pool with at least one of the activity

outcomes, and an allocation processor in communication with the activity correlation table for allocating each said bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the associated activity outcome probabilities.

6. The wagering system according to claim 3, wherein the payout processor comprises an event outcome receiver for receiving indications of the actual outcomes, an outcome correlator in communication with the event outcome receiver for identifying the winning wagerers from the received indications and the predicted outcomes, and a payout allocator in communication with the outcome correlator for allocating the credit amounts amongst the respective winning wagerers in accordance with each said respective predicted outcome.

7. A method for facilitating wagering comprising the steps of:

receiving wagers from wagerers on wagering events, each said wager including a predicted outcome of at least one of the events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome;

allocating each said bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the associated predicted outcome; and

paying out credit amounts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and actual outcomes of the events.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of receiving wagers comprises the steps of associating rules with at least one activity, each said activity being associated with indicia, associating the indicia with participants of the events in accordance with the set of rules, and for each said wager receiving a selection of the indicia, and deriving the associated predicted outcome from the indicia selection.

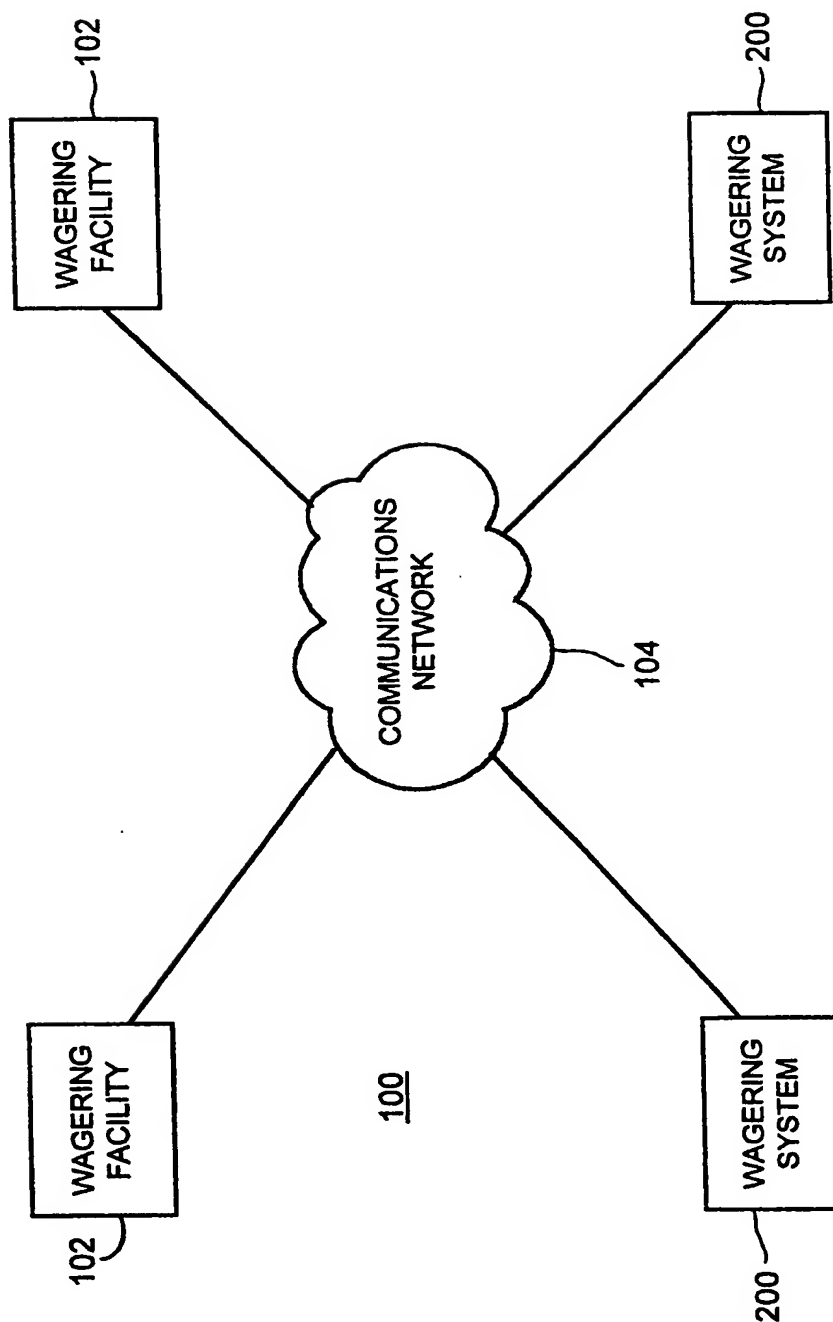
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein each said wagering event has a plurality of possible event outcomes and each said activity has a plurality of possible activity outcomes, and the step of associating the indicia comprises the steps of determining an event outcome probability associated with each said possible event outcome and determining an activity outcome probability associated with each said possible activity outcome, and associating the indicia with the participants in accordance with the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of receiving a selection comprises the steps of providing a template for facilitating performance of one of the activities in accordance with the associated rules, and receiving the indicia selection via the template.

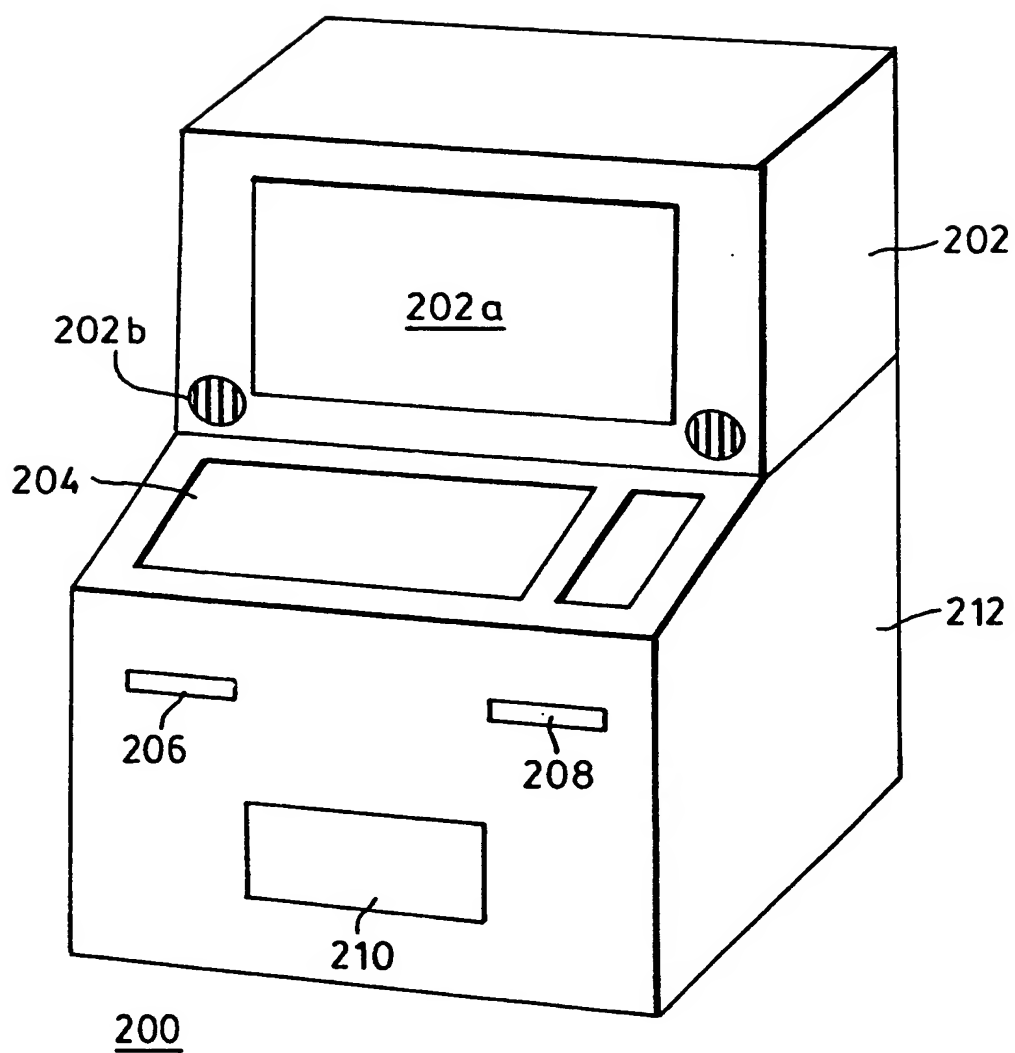
-20-

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of allocating bet amounts comprises the steps of associating each said betting pool with one of the activity outcomes, and allocating each said bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the associated activity outcome probabilities.
12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of allocating bet amounts comprises the steps of associating each said betting pool with one of the activity outcomes, and allocating each said bet amount equally amongst the betting pools.
13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the payout step comprises the steps of receiving indications of the actual outcomes, correlating the received indications with the predicted outcomes to identify the winning wagerers, associating each said winning wagerer with at least one of the betting pools in accordance with each said respective predicted outcome, and for each said betting pool allocating the credit amounts amongst the respective associated winning wagerers.

1/7

FIG. 1

2/7

FIG. 2

3/7

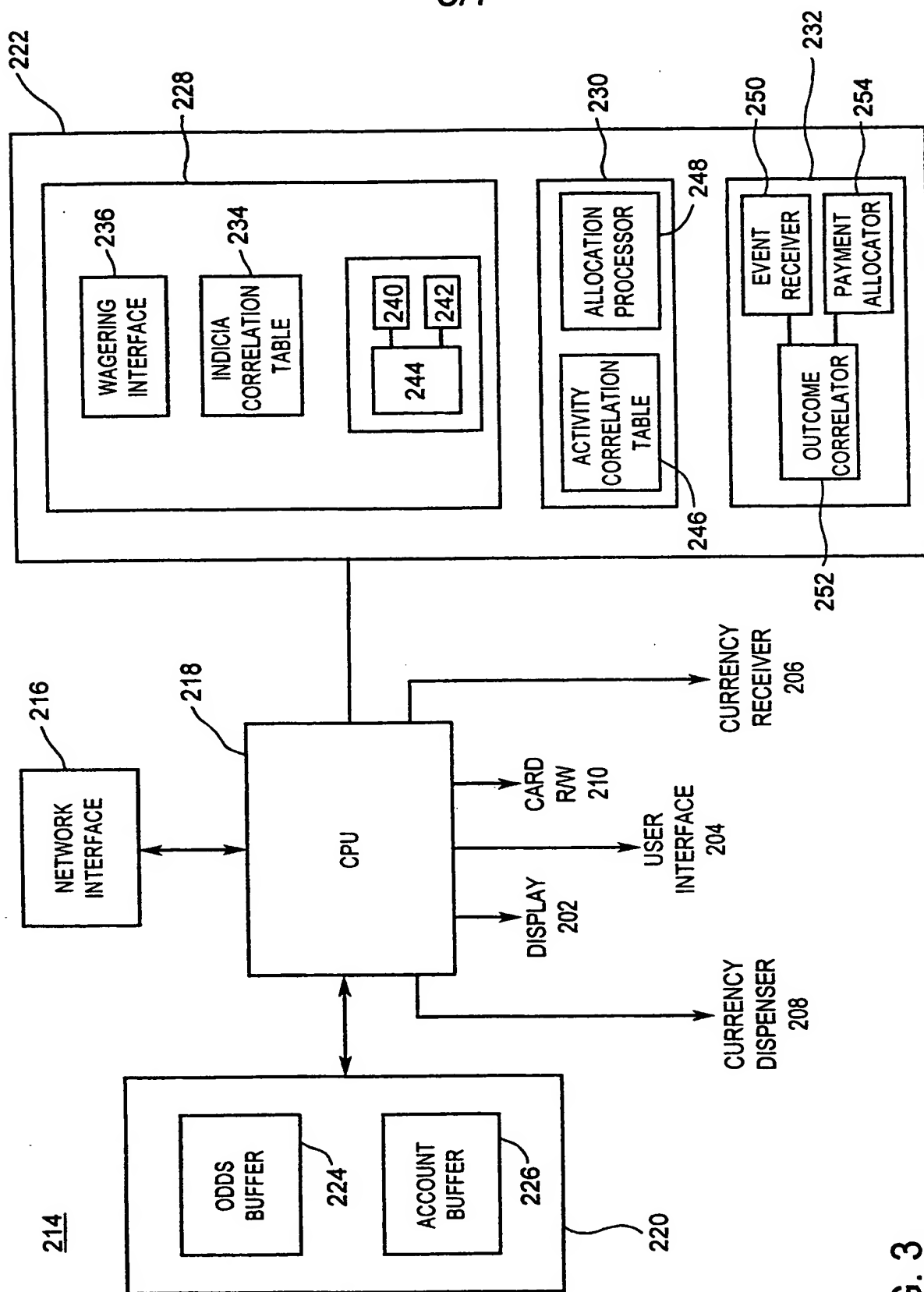


FIG. 3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
WIN									
PLACE	306	306	306			306			
SHOW				306					
4 th									

← 304 ← 304 ← 304 ← 304

302 302 302

FIG. 4

300

5/7

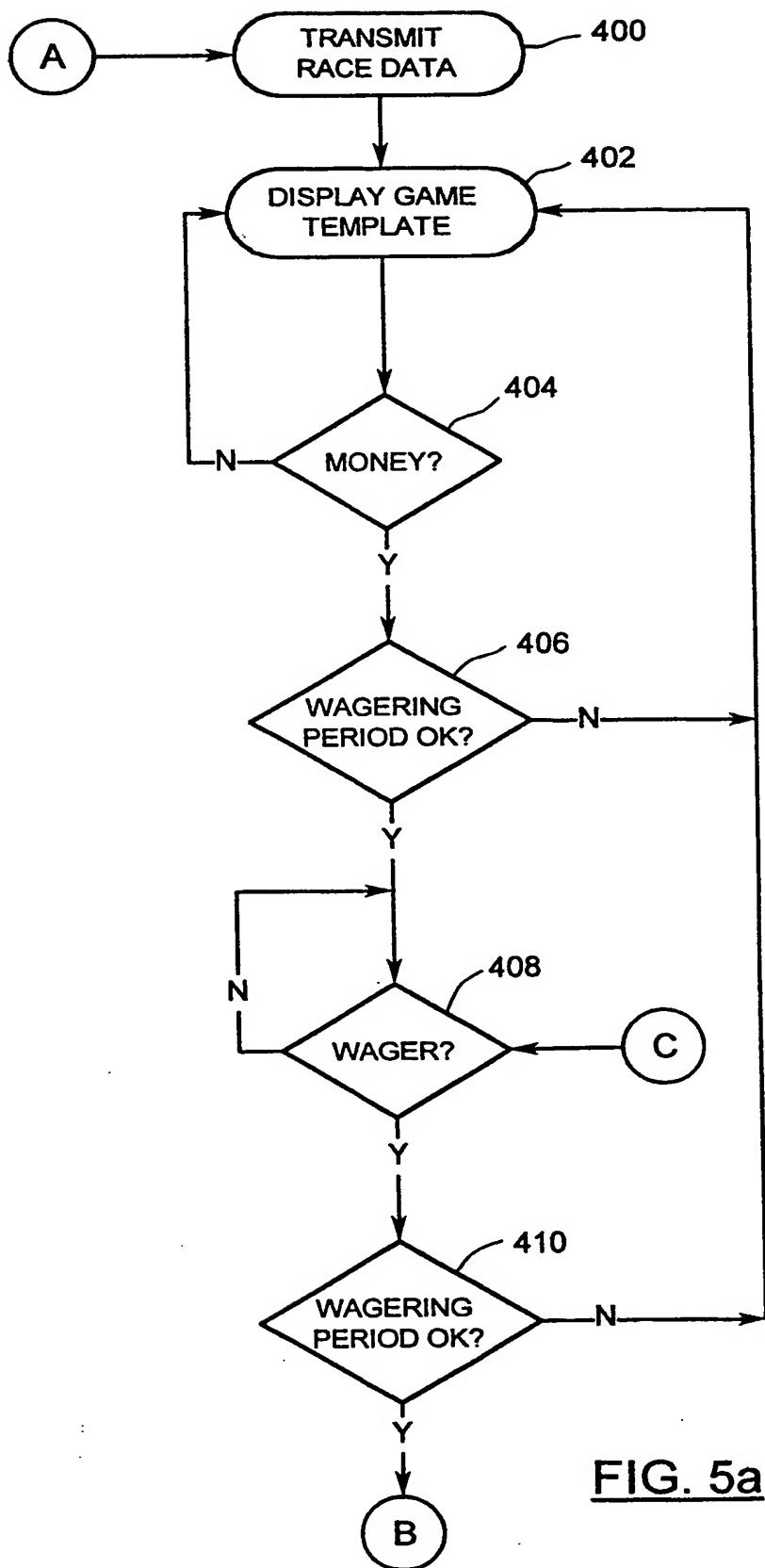
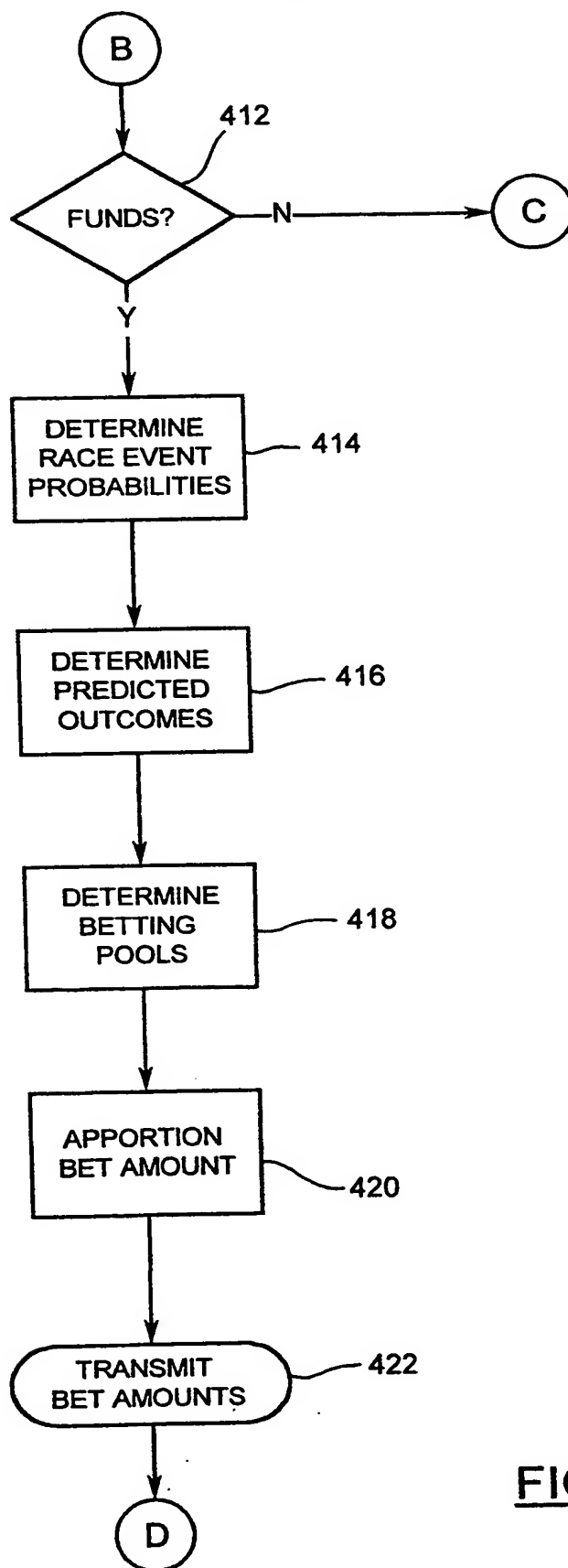
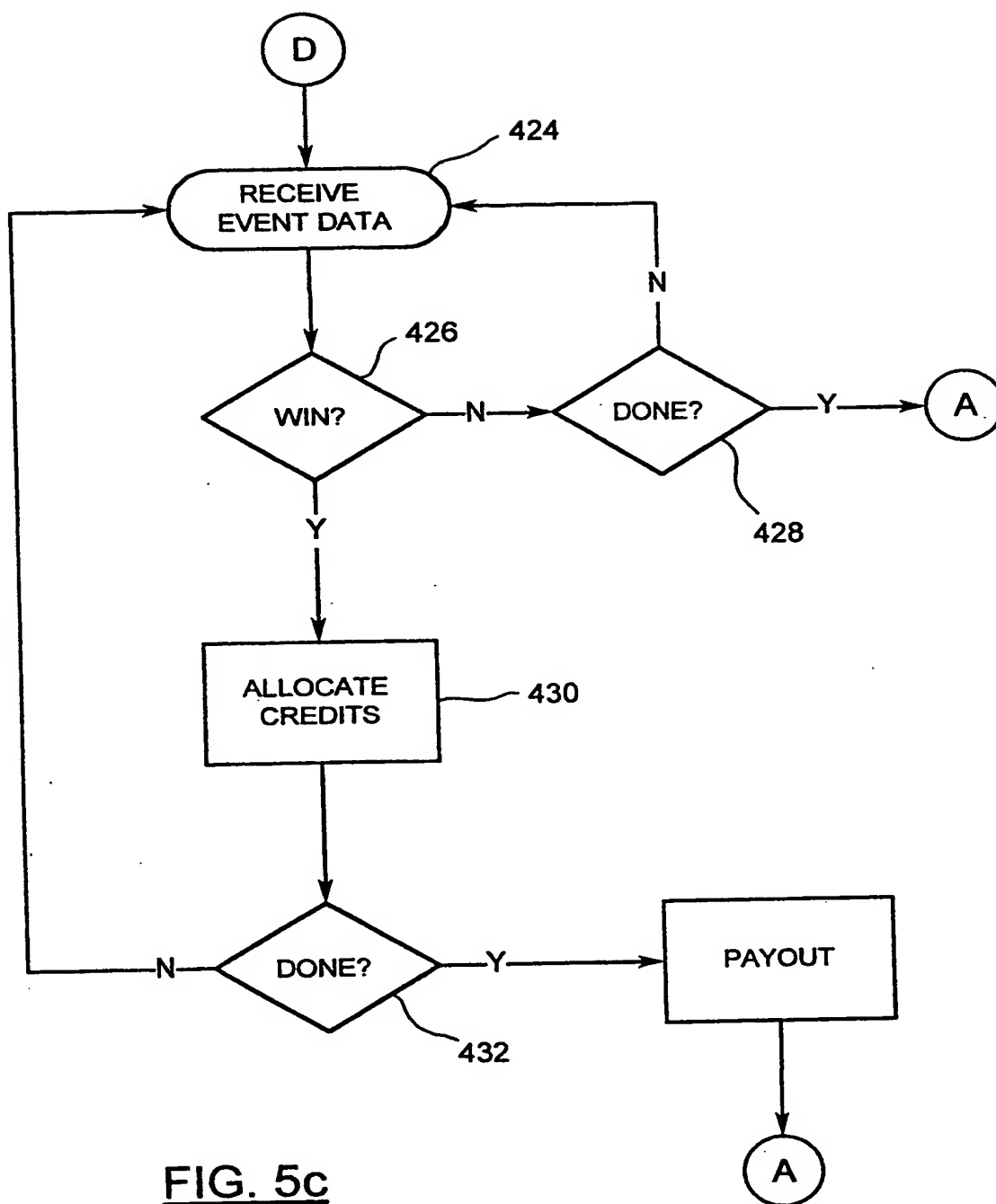


FIG. 5a

6/7

FIG. 5b

7/7

FIG. 5c